



FAMILY RECORD OF

Births -- Marriages -- Deaths

to which is added

a short

FAMILY HISTORY OF

The Blackfords - Colstons - Minors - Carters - Marshalls - Fishers

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Collected and Prepared by

C. M. BLACKFORD

Lynchburg

Virginia

RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS FAMILY WRITTEN BY

Raleigh Colston

of Honeywood, Berkeley Co.

Copied from leaves of his Bible now in possession of  
Dr. Colston.

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As my children may desire to receive some information respecting their ancestors since their emigration to Virginia, I will give them such as I received when a young man. I think about the year 1768 or 9, I resided in Richmond County near an aged relative, lady of Col. John Smith, her maiden name was Colston. She informed me that the first of that name and family who emigrated to this country was William, who had been bred for the Law and was clerk of Rappahannock County, which, I believe comprised the counties now called Essex and Middlesex on the South Side of the river and those of Richmond, Lancaster and Northumberland on the North Side. I have seen some of the records of that office which impressed me with the opinion that he was well versed in his profession. This gentleman, Mrs. Smith "inform" me was the brother of Edward Colston of Bristol in England, who devised

a large fortune to charitable uses, such as building and endowing alms houses, hospitals, charity schools, two of which for the education and maintenance of 40 young persons of both sexes, were established at Bristol, the place of his nativity. The scholars of this institution are always dressed in blue cloth, whence they were called "Blue Coat Scholars of the Hospital". They wear silver medal engraved with his coat of arms. I have seen some highly respectable gentlemen who were indebted for their maintenance and education to his institution which has no doubt contributed to the happiness of thousands who have been snatched from poverty, ignorance, and vice. This Edward Colston was born in 1636; I think in November and died on the anniversary of his birth day 1727. His remains were deposited in "All Saints Church", Bristol, where a sermon is annually preached in honour of his memory, accompanied by the solemn sound of muffled bells. Mention is made of him in a work entitled "A Tour Through England" and also in the Biographical Dictionary. Mrs. Smith showed me a copy plate picture of this gentleman, elegantly framed, to which was annexed his character and his various charities printed in letters of gold to show the respect in which he was held in his native city.

To return to Wm. Coston, the first emigrant and clerk of Rappahannock County, Mrs. Smith informed me he had a son named William and as well as I can recollect, several daughters. This last named William had two sons, William and Charles, and I believe some daughters. William was father of Mrs. Smith and Charles was my grandfather. Charles intermarried with Susanna Traverse, the daughter of Samuel (or William) Traverse and Winifred his wife, who, I believe, emigrated from England. The issue of this marriage were Traverse, my Father, and Susanna, who married a gentleman named Eustice and died without issue. Traverse, my father, married for his first wife, Miss Alice Corbin Griffin, by whom he had issue, Charles, and Elizabeth Griffin. Charles married Ann Fauntleroy, the daughter of Griffin Fauntleroy of Cherry Point, Northumberland, by whom he had issue, Judeth Swann and Alice Griffin. Judeth married William Graham, by whom she had a son named Charles, who died under age and four daughters, Nancy, Fanny, Alice and Sally. Alice Griffin married Richard Beale by whom she had several children, one of whom married a Mr. Peyton of Loudoun. Elizabeth Griffin, the sister of Charles and my half sister, married Col. William Peachy of Richmond County, by whom she had a daughter, Susanna, who married John

Nicholson, a merchant of Baltimore; a son, William Traverse, who was the father of Elizabeth Griffin Peachy, now living in my house, and Susanna; William and Thomas living with Mr. Nicholson. Traverse, my father, married for his 2nd wife, Mrs. Kenner, whose maiden name was Susanna Opie. She was the widow of Kenner, and by him, the mother of Col. Rodham Kenner of Kennersley, in Northumberland, one of the best of men. By this lady, my father had the following children: Traverse, who died under age, William, Raleigh, and Samuel, who was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, and died unmarried. William married Lucy Carter, daughter of Col. Landon Carter of Sabine Hall in Richmond County, by whom he had issue: William Traverse, who has several children and now resides in the county of Frederick, and Elizabeth, who married a Dr. Hall of Falmouth, and Susanna, who married a Mr. Turner.

Raleigh, (the writer), intermarried with Miss Elizabeth Marshall, daughter of Col. Thomas Marshall of Oak Hill, Fauquier County, who has since moved to Kentucky. By this Elizabeth Marshall, he had the following children: 1. Edward, named after Edward Colston of Bristol, whose name for his many charitable works; 2. Mary Isham, the wife of John Hanson Thomas, Esq. of Fredericktown, Maryland; 3. Susanna, who intermarried with Benjamin Watkins Leigh, Esq. of Richmond, Virginia; 4. Thomas Marshall, who married Ann Fisher, daughter of George Fisher, Esq. of Richmond, Virginia; 5. Raleigh Traverse; 6. Lucy Ann; 7. John James Marshall.

The Family of Colston on the Maternal Side

Copied from Same Manuscript as Above.

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The first emigrants from England were William (or Samuel) Traverse and Winifred, his wife, who had issue; William, Samuel, Raleigh, and 4 daughters; one of them, Susanna, who married Charles Colston, was my grandmother; another of them married a Mr. Beale, another a Mr. Tarpley,; and another, Daniel Hombly, of Hombly Manor in Richmond County; who having no issue, or relatives, in this country, bequeathed his property to William and Raleigh Colston, in tail male, but the Law of Entails being abolished, it descended in fee to the family of William. I believe that William Traverse, the son, was speaker of the House of Burgeses and settled in Jamestown. There is still a family of that name who are, I presume, his descendants. Samuel and Raleigh died without issue.

DATES. I am inclined to think that William Colston, the first emigrant, was born about the year 1618; came to this country 1640; was clerk of Rappahannock in 1645; that William, his son, was born in 1665, and that William and Charles, his (William's) sons were born in 1688 and 1690, respectively. Traverse, the son of Charles, about 1712. Charles

(the son of Traverse), my half brother; about and myself on 10th May, 1749. My father, I suppose, died about the year, 1752. His will, as well as that of his father, are recorded in Northumberland. I think it probable that my grandfather was born about the year 1665. My grandmother in 1690. I found from records in the Land Office that a grant issued to Samuel Traverse for land in Northumberland County in 1690. I think it probable that my great grandfather and William (or Samuel) Traverse came to this country between 1685 and 1690. If this conjecture is correct, the family of Colston had been in this country about 170 years and that of Traverse 127 or 132 years.

Raleigh Colston.

Honeywood, March 24th, 1812.

MEMOIRS OF RALEIGH COLSTON OF HONEYWOOD

Written at the same time and in the same book with the preceding

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Supposing it will be agreeable to my children to be made acquainted with some few of the particulars of my life, I have thought proper to write as follows:

I was born May 10th, 1749, at Exeter Lodge, the residence of my Father on Yocomoco in the County of Northumberland, State of Virginia. Nature bestowed on me a sound and vigorous constitution which was strengthened by the active pursuit of my youth. Perhaps few persons ever had a more early recollection of everything. I think I can venture to affirm that I still retain a pretty perfect recollection of events which happened before I was two years old. I was little over two years of age when my mother *died*, shortly after which event, the family removed from Exeter Lodge to Hombly Manor on Rappahannock River, an estate which had been bequeathed by our good old uncle Daniel Hombly in tail male to William, and myself, Samuel not then being born. After our removal to this estate, I recollect a variety of circumstances not worth repeating. My father died at Hombly's Manor in 1752 or 3, if so, I was not more than 3 or 4 years old. I perfectly remember seeing my Father's corpse, was in petticoats in what was called a Banyan, made of Scotch tarlton plaid. I recollect my Father frequently held me out on a pillow before him and made the servant who attended me carry his gun to shoot squirrels and crows, the scalps



of which were paid in taxes, I have understood.

After the death of my Father, William and myself were sent to live with Charles Beale, one of the guardians appointed by my Father in conjunction with Major Tarpley. A Scotch gentleman named Richardson was employed as our tutor. He was an excellent man and one of the missionaries of the Scotch Society for propagating the gospel in America. He distributed a great many good books among the poor and educated their children on Sundays. This good man taught me to read and write and carried me as far as Eutropeius in Latin. He made me read the Scriptures and catechised me through the principal parts. He was very attentive to my moral conduct and impressed me with religious sentiments which I have never forgotten. I am thoroughly convinced from observation and experience through a pretty long life that parents cannot commence too early in the religious and moral education of their children. At the age of 14, I was considered a pretty good Latin scholar for my age and opportunities. My guardian, Major Traverse Tarpley, now put me apprentice to his Brother James, who was member of an extensive mercantile house in Williamsburg, known as the house of "Tarpley, Thompson and Company", the principal partner of which resided in Bristol, England. Here I remained between 3 and 4 years, acquiring little knowledge of my business. My principal associates were

the students of William and Mary College, most of whom were at that time much more celebrated for their vices than their virtues and literary acquirements. I frequently fell into the dissipated practices of my companions. I read nothing. My mind was a blank and no enquiry was made into my conduct by my guardians. The concern of "Tarpley, Thompson and Company" being dissolved by the death of Tarpley, I now returned to my guardian, residing in Richmond County. He was very indifferent. I was furnished with a good horse and went and came when and where I pleased. After pursuing this idle course for 12 or 18 months, I became perfectly disgusted with it and determined to apply myself. There was a gentleman in the neighbourhood who married a relation of mine. He was a man of *science*. I boarded myself with him and after close application to *reading* for 12 or 18 months, I determined on the study of the Law. For this purpose, I removed to Williamsburg and placed myself under the patronage of Geo. Wythe, Esq, to whom I was recommended by John Tayloe and Prestley Thornton, the juvenile friends of my Father. I here studied with great attention for 3 years. Having obtained a license, I commenced practice in the Counties of Richmond and Northumberland, but having to contend with 3 or 4 old practitioners, I got but little business. The fees were too small to engage the attention of any active mind. I became disgusted with the practice and after a short period, an opportunity was offered me of quitting the practice without reproach. The Revolution

commenced and the courts were shut up. With a view to meet the event, I sold my patrimony and entered the army, but having sold on credit, a considerable part of my fortune was lost by depreciation. The dispute between Great Britain and the Colonies having been fully discussed, the minds of all men preferred to refer to the ultima ratio regum. The young men now formed themselves into independent companies. They were well armed, uniformed, and pretty well disciplined at their own expense. The immortal Washington was the avowed patron of the Company to which I belonged. It was expected that those young men who had been most prominent in preparation would fill the first appointments in the army. Being appointed by the Committee of Safety to proceed to Philadelphia for the purchase of military accoutrements, I was absent in the early part of the <sup>?</sup>time when officers were named for the 6 new regiments; although in the list of candidates for Lieut. Colonel, my opponents who were present obtained the preference. Determined not to remain an idle spectator, I received the appointment of Commercial Agent for the purpose of collecting military stores from abroad. For this purpose, I settled at Cape Francis in St. Domingo. I was connected with a house at Curacoa.

I returned to my native country in June 1784, after having acquired an easy fortune. From that time until

October 1785, I resided in Richmond County, where I married and retired to the County of Frederick and became a Farmer. In 1807, I removed to the County of Berkeley and established myself at Honeywood on the banks of the Potomac.

Raleigh Colston

March 24th, 1812.  
Honeywood

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N B. These papers were signed "Rawleigh Colston".

CMB

For further account of the Colston family, see 2 Meade's Old Churches and Families of Virginia 172 -178. CMB

For an extended notice of Hon. Edward C. Colston (son of Raleigh Colston) of Honeywood, see 2 Meade's Old Churches and Families of Virginia, 300 - 1.